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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

2 SEPTEMBER 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Petaluma – School Cancels Classes Following Social Media Threat

(U) A Petaluma high school canceled classes yesterday due to a social media post sent to students that referred to a shooting and contained photos of guns, according to authorities. Petaluma police got a call Wednesday night from St. Vincent High School administrators regarding the post, which was received by two students. Police do not believe there was any credible threat, but the school decided to cancel classes yesterday out of an abundance of caution, police said. The social media post didn't reference any location in Petaluma or a specific school. A spokesperson for St. Vincent High School said that a teacher was contacted by a student Wednesday night about a Snapchat message containing three pictures of handguns and one rifle. That Snapchat account has since been deactivated.

SOURCE: 1 September 2022, Los Angeles Times

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Officials Stop Airplane Human Smuggling Attempt

(U) Edinburg – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) stopped a human smuggling attempt that was set to be carried out by using an airplane. A press release states that the incident happened Wednesday when a DPS pilot was conducting a ramp check on a Gulf Stream IV aircraft because he suspected "the aircraft was being used in human smuggling," noting that there was "some suspicious activity" from a group of people inside the airport. The DPS pilot then contacted the person who charted the plane, Maximo Diaz Jorge, who said that the group of people were his employees at an "oil company traveling to Houston to see a baseball game." However, after the DPS official asked for identification from the individuals, all of them ran, officials say. Eight males and five females were among the illegal immigrants from the Dominican Republic and El Salvador and were referred to the US Border Patrol. According to a DPS official, one of the immigrants claimed to have paid \$11,000 in total to be smuggled, which includes \$7,000 to be smuggled into the US, and another \$4,000 to be smuggled by an airplane. SOURCE: 1 September 2022, Fox News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Ex-NYPD Officer Receives Longest Prison Sentence for US Capitol Riot

(U) Washington – A retired New York City police officer who was convicted of several felonies for attacking a Washington police officer with a flagpole on 6 January 2021, tackling the officer to the ground and trying to rip off his gas mask was sentenced to ten-years in federal prison yesterday. Thomas Webster was sentenced by US District Judge Amit P. Mehta to the longest sentence yet in a case related to the riot at the US Capitol. Jurors convicted Webster, 56, in May after they determined he was lying on the stand when he tried to convince them he was trying to help the officer he assaulted to "see my hands" when he grabbed the officer's gas mask after he tackled him to the ground.

SOURCE: 1 September 2022, NBC News

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(U) Colorado – County Government Hit by Cyberattack

(U) Grand Junction – Fremont County employees were notified of an attack on their systems that may have compromised their personal information Wednesday. The Governor's Office of Information determined that the suspect behind the cyberattack used BlackCat ransomware. Also known as ALPHV, the software has compromised at least 60 different organizations globally, according to the FBI. In addition to county employees, Fremont County stated that the attack also compromised the personal information of a small number of people in the community. Fremont County states that it is working with multiple state and federal security agencies to ensure that other counties and cities in Colorado are prepared for potential cyberattacks and understand how to protect their systems.

SOURCE: 1 September 2022, KKCO News

(U) New York - FBI, DHS Raid Alleged Properties of Russian Oligarch

(U) New York City – Federal agents were seen yesterday morning searching an apartment in a Manhattan high-rise and an estate in the Hamptons that authorities allege are connected to a Russian oligarch who recently had his yacht seized, according to sources familiar with the matter. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and FBI agents, along with New York City Police Department detectives, were seen carrying boxes during a search in Southampton, New York, and Manhattan. Records show those properties are linked to the sanctioned Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg, a billionaire and a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, who heads the Moscow-based Renova Group, a conglomerate with interests in the metals, mining, and tech industries, according to US Treasury documents. SOURCE: 1 September 2022, NBC News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Switzerland - Police Arrest Two with Ties to ISIS

(U) Geneva – Swiss police arrested two people yesterday in connection with an investigation into their suspected support for, or participation in the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), authorities said. The police operation, which also involved searches of four houses in the Geneva and Vaud regions, was part of a criminal case opened in July 2021 by the Swiss attorney general's office. The case centers on a Swiss-Macedonian dual national and a citizen of Kosovo, who lived separately in the two Swiss regions. The arrests were made in French-speaking western Switzerland. The two suspects, who were not identified by name, were transferred to the Swiss capital, Bern, for questioning by the attorney general's office, which will decide whether to keep them in custody pending trial.

SOURCE: 1 September 2022, <u>Associated Press</u>

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